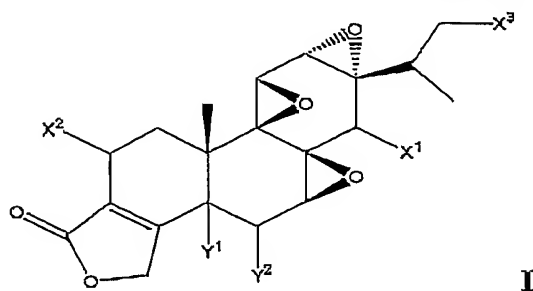


## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 20 September 2005 (20.09.05);  
original claims 1-26 are unchanged; new claims 27-30 added (1 page)]

27. A method of preparing a 5-hydroxy triptolide compound of formula I :



where

$X^1$  is  $OR^1$ , where  $R^1$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C(=O)R^2$ , and  $C(=O)OR^2$ , where  $R^2$  is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, and acyloxyalkyl;

$X^2$  and  $X^3$  are independently  $OR^1$  or hydrogen, at least one of  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  being hydrogen;

$Y^1 = OH$ ; and  $Y^2 = H$ ;

by reaction of a starting triptolide compound of formula I in which  $X^1$ ,  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  are as defined above,  $Y^1 = H$ , and  $Y^2 = H$ , with selenium dioxide.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein  $R^1$  is selected from hydrogen and  $C(=O)R^2$ , and  $R^2$  is selected from lower alkyl, phenyl, and benzyl.

29. The method of claim 28, where  $R^1$  is hydrogen.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein each of  $X^2$  and  $X^3$  is hydrogen, and said 5-hydroxy triptolide compound is 5 $\alpha$ -hydroxytriptolide.